

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Soonwuk Cheong, Ph.D. on 9/14/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 18 has been changed to begin with "A lithium sulfide..."

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 4-9, 11-16, and 18 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the claims have been found novel over the closest prior art JP 07-330312 to Koyama et al. Koyama et al. do not teach that the washing of lithium sulfide with N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone (NMP) at a temperature of 100 °C or higher resulting in the non-zero presence of lithium N-methylaminobutyrate (LMAB) at a range of 0.1% by weight or less. No prior art was found to discuss the amount of LMAB in the washed lithium sulfide product as a result of the claimed washing process.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HENG CHAN whose telephone number is (571)270-5859. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday, 9:30 am EST to 6:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer K. Michener can be reached on (571)272-1424. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jennifer K. Michener/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1728

/HENG M CHAN/
Examiner, Art Unit 1728

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